

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 6, 9, 13, 15 and 16 have been amended.

Claims 1 through 16 are pending in the present application.

The Office Action states that the Replacement Drawing Figure 5 is objected to and has not been entered since it includes new matter. Further, in the Office Action, the drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as failing to show the slidable connector and abutments which are claimed in claims 13 through 16.

Still further in the Office Action, claims 13 to 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the Office Action states that specification fails to sufficiently describe the invention claimed in claims 13 through 16 so as to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make the claimed invention without undue experimentation.

Applicants respectfully submit that the drawing objection, the objection under 37 CFR 1.83(a) and the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejection, have been overcome. The abutments, protrusions and spring based structures disclosed in the specification and recited in the claims are aspects of the claimed invention that are understood by those skilled in the art of hair setting

assemblies and hair care appliances. Accordingly, a detailed illustration of the described and claimed features hair setting assembly is not essential for a proper understanding of the claims. The claims accurately and concisely recite the invention in an unambiguous manner that is clearly understood by those skilled in the relevant art. Therefore, reconsideration and entry of the Replacement Drawing Figure 5 is respectfully requested as it does not contain new matter.

In the Office Action, the amendments to the specification at pages 7 and 8 now conform to 37 CFR 1.121.

In the Office Action mailed June 27, 2003, claims 13 through 16 were indicated as being allowable. It is respectfully submitted that the arguments presented regarding Replacement Figure 5 and the amendments to the specification be considered. Replacement Figure 5 and the amended Specification provide proper support for the claimed subject matter of claims 13, 14, and 16. Reconsideration of these claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1 to 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. Des. 216,349 to Bomeisler et al. (hereinafter "the Bomeisler et al. design patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,282,462 to Box (hereinafter "the Box patent"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the grounds that the Bomeisler et al. design patent in combination with the Box patent do not disclose all of the elements set forth in claims 1 to 3.

Claim 1 provides for a hair setting assembly. The assembly includes *inter alia*, a lid hingedly mounted to the housing for selectively covering one or more heatable hair rollers and a lid having at least two sections each individually mounted by a single pivot to said housing, wherein the at least two sections of the lid are capable of sealing along a line that is transverse to a longitudinal axis to the housing.

The Bomeisler et al. design patent is directed to a heater housing design for hair curlers having a two-part cover in which each part of the cover is connected at the same sides of the housing. The Bomeisler et al. design patent does not disclose a lid capable of selectively covering heatable hair rollers, or a lid having at least two sections each individually hingedly mounted by a single pivot to the housing, or at least two sections of the lid that are capable of sealing along a line that is transverse to a longitudinal axis of the of the housing, as claimed.

The Box patent is directed to a plastic carrying case having two integral lid parts that fold at a pivot line. The lid parts of the Box patent are integrally molded with the sidewalls and fold at a pivot line formed from a series of spaced slots (column 4, lines 9 to 12). Regarding claim 1, the Box patent does not disclose a lid having at least two sections each individually mounted by a single pivot to the housing. In contrast, the lid sections are not mounted to the housing, but are integrally formed with the walls of the housing (column 3, lines 17 to 25). Further, the Box patent does not disclose lids each individually mounted by a single pivot, but instead by a plurality of pivots

provided by slots 24 along the pivot line (column 4, lines 9 to 12).

The single pivot structure of the claimed instant invention accommodates the curved wall of the invention (Fig. 2). Were the multiple pivots used, a curved structure would not be possible. Further, for the single pivot structure allows for a split lid configuration that provides selective access to the rollers in the holder. Accordingly, neither the Bomeisler et al. design patent nor the Box patent, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the elements of claim 1.

Further, the Office Action, in reference to the Box patent, suggests that the "each of the lid sections of a container/case may be respectively pivotally attached by a single pivot". The Office Action continues to state that "this would apparently provide room for side strengthening ribs in the adjacent walls of the container to provide improved mechanical stability and resistance to forces and loads". Applicants are unclear how single pivots would provide room for side strengthening ribs in the adjacent walls of the container or permit such strengthening after reviewing column 2, lines 52 of the patent. The pivot or hinge of the Box patent is addressed two paragraphs later in a context that has no bearing on the mechanical stability of the carrying case.

Furthermore, even assuming there was a relationship between the pivots and the strength of the walls, which there is not, there is no motivation to combine the Bomeisler et al. design patent with the Box et al. patent,

absent hindsight from Applicants' claimed invention. Specifically, the Office Action states that:

[I]t would have been obvious in view of Box to have formed the lid sections of Bomeisler et al. for a single pivot connection (opposed to the free end) and to have made each lid section thereby pivotally connected to the housing along a single pivot, so as to permit room for strengthening ribs in adjacent container walls for providing stability and force resistance to the container. (pages 5 to 6)

Applicants do not believe that this statement provides the necessary motivation to combine the Bomeisler et al design patent with the Box patent. The Bomeisler et al. design patent is used to carry at most thirteen hair rollers. In contrast, the Box patent discloses a carrying case to carry glass bottles, cartons of milk, beer and other such items. There is no motivation to strengthen the design of the Bomeisler et al. design patent in such a way that is taught by the Box patent.

Further, while the Office Action argues that a motivation for the ribs is for strengthening the case, a review of the Box patent reveals that the box must be reinforced because it will be stacked beneath other boxes (col. 2, lines 40 through 57). Further, it could not properly modify the roller case of the Bomeisler et al. design because the case of that design has a pointed upper surface with rigid vertically pointing handles that could not be stacked beneath another (Figs. 2 and 3). One of ordinary skill in the art would not have made such a combination.

Still further, the proposed modification of the Bomeisler et al. design patent in combination with the Box patent would destroy the operation of Bomeisler et al design patent. Specifically, the pivot at the back of each lid part of Bomeisler et al. would render the lids unopenable because rotation of the lids at the pivot line would cause them to abut each other. In addition to being unopenable, the proposed combination would not allow for selectively covering the one or more heatable hair rollers, as claimed in claim 1.

Furthermore, the two lid sections are not capable of sealing along a line that is transverse to a longitudinal axis of the housing, as claimed. In contrast, the lid sections seal along the longitudinal axis of the housing. The Office Action states that upon closure of the lid sections, they abut/seal at a mid-line between opposed sides of the device. Applicants respectfully disagree. Neither Figs. 2 or 3 of the Bomeisler et al. design patent, nor the Box patent, disclose at least two sections that seal along the mid-line from a front side of said housing to a rear side of said housing. In fact, both the Bomeisler et al. patent and the Box patent disclose a device that opens along a longitudinal axis that is not along the mid-line running from a front side of the housing to a rear side of the housing, as claimed. The seal traverses a shorter distance by running from a front side of the housing to a rear side of the housing, in comparison to a seal traversing the longitudinal axis. By the traversing the longer longitudinal axis, the seal allows greater heat dissipation.

For these reasons, the Bomeisler et al. patent and the Box patent do not render claim 1 obvious. Thus, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and provides, *inter alia*, at least two sections that are pivotally connected at opposing ends.

The Bomeisler et al. design patent, as discussed above, discloses two lid sections that are pivotally connected at the same end. The Box patent discloses a lid that is connected at opposite ends, but by multiple pivots. For the reasons discussed above regarding claim 1, the combination of the Bomeisler et al. design patent in view of the Box patent also does not make claim 2 obvious.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and provides for at least two sections that seal along a mid-line running from a front side of said housing to a rear side of said housing.

The Office Action states that upon closure of the lid sections, they abut/seal at a mid-line between opposed sides of the device. Applicants respectfully disagree. Neither Figs. 2 or 3 of the Bomeisler et al. design patent, nor the Box patent, disclose at least two sections that seal along the mid-line from a front side of said housing to a rear side of said housing. In fact, both the Bomeisler et al. patent and the Box patent disclose a device that opens along a longitudinal axis that is not along the mid-line running from a front side of the housing to a rear side of the housing, as claimed. The seal traverses a shorter distance by running from a front side

of the housing to a rear side of the housing, in comparison to a seal traversing the longitudinal axis. By the traversing the longer longitudinal axis, the seal allows greater heat dissipation.

The combination of Bomeisler et al. design patent and the Box patent does not overcome the defect of the Bomeisler et al. patent with respect to claim 3. As such, the combination of Bomeisler et al. in view of the Box patent does not make the claim 3 obvious.

In the Office Action, claims 1 through 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Design Patent No. 323,041 to Montagnino et al. (hereinafter "the Montagnino et al. design patent (041)") in view of the Box patent.

The Montagnino et al. design patent (041) is directed to a portable housing for a hair setter showing two covers that close along a longitudinal line and are pivotally connected to a housing at the same end, much like the lid of the Bomeisler design patent. As such, the Box patent, discussed above, does not correct the defects of the Montagnino patent with respect to claims 1 to 3. Specifically, the Box patent discloses two lids each connected by multiple pivots that seal along a longitudinal axis. The Montagnino et al. design patent (041) in combination with the Box patent also does not render claims 1 to 3 obvious for the same reasons discussed above.

Further, the Office Action states that "it is noted that no advantage is indicated in Applicant's disclosure



for a single lid section pivot as opposed to multiple pivots". In fact, claim 1 provides a "lid having at least two sections". The disclosure at page 7, lines 11 to 14, states that the "split lid arrangement heretofore preferably described allows for selective access to rollers 40. This selective access helps to reduce heat loss and improve efficiency". Furthermore, were the lid of the Montagnino et al. design patent modified by the lid of the Box patent, the resulting device would be result in multiple overlapping lid sections that would limit the functionality of the easy access lid. Therefore, the single lid section pivot is advantageous.

Claim 4 depends from claim 1 and provides that each of said at least two sections have one or more channels.

Claim 5 depends from claim 4 and provides that the one or more channels function to collect accumulated condensation from said lid and direct said condensation to said at least one reservoir in said housing.

The Office Action states that "on each side of the handle element, the lid sections include channels that are capable of directing condensation into the reservoir/volume of the housing.". Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Montagnino et al. design patent (041) is directed to a housing for a hair setter. The Montagnino et al. design patent (041) shows two lid portions having broad spaces on opposite sides of the interior of the handle portion when the device is in a closed position. However, these broad spaces could not be used to "collect

accumulated condensation from the lid and direct said condensation to said at least on reservoir in said housing" as claimed. From Figs. 4 and 6 of the Montagnino et al. design patent (041), any condensation could not collect in any reservoir because no such element is shown. Instead, the condensation would fall outside the housing onto the supporting surface.

Any modification by the Box patent, although the Office Action did not offer a proper motivation, does not correct the defect of the Montagnino et al. design patent (041).

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Montagnino et al. design patent (041) in view of the Box patent and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,700,855 to Jensen et al. (hereinafter "the Jensen et al. patent").

The Office Action states that "an enclosure for curlers may include a steaming means and that the underside of a lid of an enclosure for curlers/rollers may include channels (pyramidal shapes 7,8) that direct/channel condensation to the reservoir of the housing/casing, for the purpose of wetting curlers/rollers in the reservoir . . .". (page 6). Further, the Office Action states that "it would have been obvious to have provided the lid of the housing of Montagnino et al. [sic] with condensation channels and to have provided the housing with a steaming means . . . for the purpose of wetting the curlers/rollers and recirculating moisture within the housing.". (page 6)

Applicants respectfully disagree. There is no motivation to modify the Montagnino et al. design patent (041) by the Box patent and by the Jensen et al. patent even if the lid did show at least two sections having one or two channels as provided by claim 4. The Jensen et al. patent provides for a lid having multiple pyramids to collect condensation in the housing to drop over the curlers. In claim 5, the lid has one or more channels that function to collect accumulated condensation from the lid to direct the condensation to at least one reservoir in the housing. The Montagnino et al. design patent (041) is concerned, if at all, with removing condensation from the housing, whereas the Jensen et al. patent is concerned with collecting condensation for use on the rollers in the housing. The Box patent does not address any channels.

Furthermore, there is no motivation to add a steaming mechanism and to add pyramids to the lid to drop condensation into the interior of the housing absent improper hindsight gained from Applicants invention.

Significantly, claim 5 is concerned with directing water from the lid to at least one reservoir in the housing. In contrast, The Jensen et al. patent is concerned with collecting water on the lid and dropping it onto the rollers, not into any reservoir. There is no recitation in the Jensen et al. patent that the condensation is directed into any reservoir, as claimed.

The Office Action states that condensation would collect on interior surfaces and fall into the housing. Applicants respectfully disagree. While the condensation

would collect on vertical interior surfaces; it would also slide down the walls on to the supporting surface.

For the reasons stated above, the combination of references cited above does not make obvious the claimed invention.

Furthermore, the combination would destroy the function of the primary reference. The Montagnino et al. patent (041) appears to use dry heat to heat the rollers, whereas the Jensen patent uses vaporized liquid that drips from apexes to heat the rollers. One of ordinary skill in the art would not change the primary reference as suggested.

In the Office Action, claims 6 through 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Montagnino et al. design patent (041) in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,659,920 to Bogan et al. (hereinafter "the Bogan et al. patent").

Claim 6 provides for a hair setting assembly having, *inter alia*, a housing, a lid hingedly mounted to the housing and having at least two sections a base connected to the housing so that the housing can move on the base wherein the two sections are capable of sealing along a line that is transverse to a longitudinal axis to the housing.

The Office Action states in reference to the Bogan et al. patent that:

[A] container (6) may be provided on its lower portion with means (protuberances 7) to be connected to a base, and that a base (12,14) may be provided, having with [sic] means (spaced concave members 14) for connected the vase to the container (6), for the purpose of tilting the opening of the container with respect to the horizontal and toward a user for the purpose of providing access to the contents of the container. (page 7)

The Office Action offers that it would have been obvious to have made the container of the Montagnino et al. design patent with a base for the purpose of tilting the opening of the housing toward the user for better access to the curlers in the housing. Applicants respectfully disagree.

There is no motivation for the combination of references absent improper hindsight gained from the Applicants' application. Specifically, the Montagnino et al. design patent offers no motivation to modify the lower flat surface of the roller holder that rests on a flat surface because there is no desire to tilt the holder. Figs. 4 and 5 of the Montagnino et al. design patent show four legs for resting the device on a flat surface and six additional elements to provide friction with the resting surface. These elements distinctly show that the device is to be in a horizontal orientation or to maintained in a horizontal orientation on a surface. It is not to be tilted. One of ordinary skill in the art would not combine a device that teaches contrary to teaching of tilting with one that teaches tilting.

There is also no rationale to provide a base that is connected to the housing. Furthermore, the Bogan et al. patent offers no reason to modify such a device as shown in the Montagnino et al. design patent. Specifically, the containers that are to be modified by the Bogan et al. patent are for nail polish bottles, ink holders, shoe polish and perfumes (column 2, lines 10 to 22). The types of devices referenced in the Bogan et al. patent are small holding devices, not large devices like that shown in the Montagnino et al. design patent. The fields of art are not analogous.

Furthermore, the Office Action argues that the feet of the Montagnino et al design patent suggest placement on a base. Applicants respectfully disagree. The feet only suggest placement on a flat surface such as the one shown in the reference, not an additional element of the invention structured as a base.

As discussed above, the Montagnino et al. design patent does not disclose or suggest a housing having lid sections that are capable of sealing along a line that is transverse to a longitudinal axis to the housing. The Bogan et al. patent is not directed to a lid and does not remedy this defect. The seal traverses a shorter distance by running from a front side of the housing to a rear side of the housing, in comparison to a seal traversing the longitudinal axis. By the traversing the longer longitudinal axis, the seal allows greater heat dissipation. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection because the

combination of references does not disclose or suggest the claimed elements of the invention.

Claim 7 provides that the hair setting assembly have, *inter alia*, a housing that can be tilted about a horizontal axis of rotation that is perpendicular to the vertical extent of the housing.

Claim 8 depends from claim 7 and provides that the housing can be tilted about the horizontal axis through a predetermined angle.

Claims 7 and 8 were not directly addressed in the Office Action. The Bogan et al. patent does not disclose or suggest a housing that can be tilted about a horizontal axis of rotation, as claimed. The Bogan et al. patent does not have a horizontal axis because the container is spherical. As such, the combination of the Bogan et al. patent in combination with the Montagnino et al. design patent also does not render claims 7 and 8 obvious for this additional reason as well.

Independent claim 9 provides a hair setting assembly comprising, *inter alia*, a base; a housing supported on the base for pivotal movement with respect to the base, and a lid having at least two sections and being configured to channel accumulated condensation from the lid into a reservoir into the housing, wherein the at least two

sections are capable of sealing along a line that is transverse to a longitudinal axis of the housing.

As discussed previously, the Montagnino et al. design patent and the Bogan et al. patent do not disclose or suggest a housing supported on a base for pivotal movement with respect to the base, as claimed. Further, as discussed above, the Montagnino et al. design patent does not disclose or suggest a lid being configured to channel accumulated condensation from the lid into a reservoir into the housing, as claimed. The Bogan et al. patent does not correct this defect. As such, the Montagnino et al. design patent does not render claim 9 obvious. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

As discussed above, neither the Montagnino et al design patent and the Bogan et al. patent disclose or suggest a lid that seals along a line that is transverse to a longitudinal axis of the housing. By the traversing the longer longitudinal axis, the seal allows greater heat dissipation.

Claim 11 provides for a hair setting assembly wherein the at least two sections are connected at opposing ends of the housing.

As discussed previously, the Montagnino et al. design patent does not disclose a container having two sections that are connected at opposing ends of the housing as claimed. In contrast, they are connected at the same end of the housing (Figures 4 and 6). The Bogan et al. patent



does not correct this defect. As such, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 12 provides for a hair setting assembly wherein the at least two sections seal along a mid-line running from a front side of the housing to a rear side.

As discussed above with respect to claim 3, neither Figs. 5 nor 7 of the Montagnino et al. design patent (041) show lid sections that seal along the mid-line of the housing, let alone a mid-line running from a front side of said housing to a rear side of said housing. As also discussed above, the seal is significant because it will prevent heat loss and improve efficiency. (page 7, lines 11 to 14). Instead, the Montagnino et al. design patent (041) shows a device that closes along the longitudinal axis of the housing; however, it does not seal the two lids as claimed. The Bogan et al. patent does not correct this defect. As such, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Dependent claim 15, now depends from independent claim 9, and provides that the lower portion and the base are configured to provide different tilting positions. The cited combination of references does not disclose or suggest a lower portion and a base that are configured to provide different tilting positions. As discussed above, the Montagnino et al. and the Bogan et al. patent do not provide a proper motivation for such a teaching.

In the Office Action, claims 6 through 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable

over the Montagnino et al. design patent (041) in view of the Jensen et al. patent, as applied to claim 5 above and further in view of the Bogan et al patent.

The Montagnino et al. design patent and the Box patent were previously combined with the Jensen et al. patent with respect to claims 4 and 5, apparently for the purpose of teaching condensation channels. There was not a proper motivation for that combination as discussed above. The Montagnino et al. design patent (041) is concerned, if at all, with removing condensation from the housing, whereas the Jensen et al. patent is concerned with collecting condensation for use in the housing.

Alternatively, assuming that the Montagnino et al. design patent is concerned with removal of moisture or with dry heating as offered by the Office Action (p. 11), any modification by the Jensen et al. patent again fails for lack of motivation. There would not be any motivation to modify the lid of the device of the Montagnino et al. design patent as taught by the lid of the Jensen et al. patent for any reason, let alone for reasons related to channeling condensation. From the abstract of the Jensen et al. patent, the specific design of the lid and the projections allow for controlling the amount of condensing liquid and distribution of the condensing liquid onto the curlers. One of ordinary skill in the art would not modify the lid of a device not concerned with channeling condensation with the lid of the Jensen et al. patent.

Additionally, the Montagnino et al. design patent was combined with the Bogan et al. patent to apparently teach a

container that is connected to a base or for tilting the case. As discussed above, with respect to claims 6 through 9, this combination is improper because the teachings are contrary to one another. The Montagnino et al. design patent is not to be tilted, whereas the device of the Bogan et al. patent can tilt. Further, one of ordinary skill would not have modified the roller container of the Montagnino et al. design patent because the container is not of the type for which such a modification was considered in the Bogan et al. patent (Column 2, lines 10 to 22). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection are respectfully requested.

As discussed above with respect to claim 15, the cited Montagnino et al. patent and the Bogan et al. did not disclose or suggest that the lower portion and the base provide different tilting positions. The Jensen et al. patent does not correct this defect. As such, this claim is also allowable over the cited combination of references.

In the Office Action, claims 9 through 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Montagnino et al. design patent (041).

As discussed previously, the Montagnino et al. design patent does not disclose or suggest the claimed subject matter of claims 9 through 12. The Montagnino et al. design patent does not disclose or suggest a hair setting assembly having a base, a housing supported on the base for pivotal movement with respect to the base, and a lid having at least two sections and being configured to channel accumulated condensation from the lid into a reservoir into

the housing, wherein the at least two sections are capable of sealing along a line that is transverse to a longitudinal axis of the housing.

As discussed above with respect to claim 9, the Mongagnino et al. patent does not disclose or suggest a lid having at least two sections, wherein the at least two sections are capable of sealing along a line that is transverse to a longitudinal axis of the housing, as claimed. The Montagnino et al. patent seals along a longitudinal axis of the housing.

With respect to claim 11, the Montagnino et al. design patent does not disclose the hair setting assembly of claim 10 (and thus claim 9) wherein the at least two sections are connected at opposing ends of the housing. In contrast, the connections are at the same ends of the housing.

With respect to claim 12, the Montagnino et al. design patent does not disclose a hair setting assembly wherein the at least two sections seal along a mid-line running from a front side of the housing to a rear side, as claimed. In contrast, the Montagnino et al. design patent shows a device that closes along a longitudinal axis that is not from a mid-line running from front to back as claimed.

The Office Action states that "the bottom of the housing of the Montagnino et al is provided with feet. . . This suggests resting the housing on a supporting surface/base, such as a table or counter, such that it

would have been obvious from the feet to have rested the housing on such a supporting surface or base." (page 9) It further suggests that "the housing is capable of being pivoted with respect to such a supporting surface or base." (page 9).

Applicants respectfully disagree. The Montagnino et al. design patent (041) shows a device with a two-part lid and a lower housing. The feet other friction elements of Figs. 4 and 6 do not suggest the element of the base of claim 9, let alone any pivotal movement of the housing with respect to said base as claimed. The feet and other friction members on the bottom of the housing only suggest positioning and maintaining the device of the Montagnino et al. design patent on a flat surface, not on a separate additional element of a base.

Claim 10 depends from claim 9 and is also allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 9.

Dependent claim 15, now depends from independent claim 9, and provides that the lower portion and the base are configured to provide different tilting positions.

The Montagnino et al. patent does not suggest or disclose a device that is configured to provide different tilting positions. In contrast, the device has feet and friction members to maintain its horizontal position. This claim is allowable for this reason as well as the reason discussed with respect to claim 9.

Independent claim 13 provides for a hair setting assembly and includes, *inter alia*, a hair setting assembly having a base; a housing supported on the base for pivotal movement with respect to said base, and a lid hingedly connected to the housing for covering the heatable hair rollers, lid being configured to channel accumulated condensation from said lid into a reservoir in said housing, wherein said pivotal movement with respect to said base is accomplished with a slidable connector cooperating with at least two abutments disposed on a lower portion of said housing.

The cited prior art in this Office Action does not disclose or suggest all of the limitations of claim 13. The cited prior art does not disclose or suggest a housing supported on the base for pivotal movement with respect to said base, a lid being configured to channel accumulated condensation from said lid into a reservoir in said housing, wherein said pivotal movement with respect to said base is accomplished with a slidable connector cooperating with at least two abutments disposed on a lower portion of said housing, as claimed.

Dependent claim 14 provides that the slidable connector and the abutments control the degree and the direction of rotation through which the housing can tilt.

Dependent claim 16, now depends from independent claim 13, and provides that the base has at least one protrusion for cooperating with one or more spring biased structures independently located between the at least two abutments of

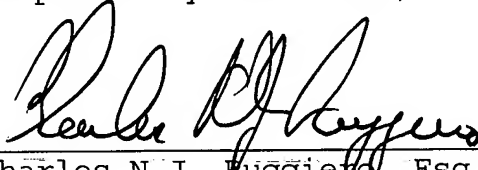
the slidable connector for providing the selective tilt positioning.

The cited prior art also does not disclose or suggest the limitations of claims 14 and 16, which are also allowable for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 13.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in the application patently distinguish over the cited prior art and the cited combinations of same. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed on to allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,



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